

DC

S U P E R M A N

1

HEROES

THE TRUTH
WILL SET HIM
FREE!

THE FUTURE OF THE DC UNIVERSE BEGINS HERE!

RATED TEEN
DCCOMICS.COM

BENDIS • FRACTION • RUCKA • MAGUIRE • LIEBER • PERKINS • NORTON • GODLEWSKI

IT'S OK IF YOU NEED TO
SCREAM...

JOE HILL **HILL HOUSE** COMICS
PRESENTS

PLUNGE

TM & © DC



FOR MATURE READERS

WRITTEN BY
JOE HILL

ART BY
STUART IMMONEN

COVERS BY
JEREMY WILSON

A NEW
6-ISSUE
LIMITED
SERIES
FEBRUARY

#DCHILLHOUSE



PROLOGUE.



CLARK.









THE DAY BEFORE.



LOIS.





My name is
Clark Kent.

DC COMICS PROUDLY
PRESENTS:

SUPERMAN HEROES

BRIAN MICHAEL BENDIS,
MATT FRACTION, AND GREG RUCKA
WRITERS

KEVIN MAGUIRE, MIKE PERKINS, STEVE LIEBER
MIKE NORTON, AND SCOTT GODLEWSKI
ARTISTS

PAUL MOUNTS, GABE ELTAEB,
ANDY TROY, AND NATHAN FAIRBAIRN
COLORISTS

TROY PETERI, CLAYTON COWLES,
AND SIMON BOWLAND
LETTERERS

BRYAN HITCH AND
ALEX SINCLAIR
COVER

BRITTANY HOLZHEAR AND
JAMIE S. RICH
EDITORS

SUPERMAN created
by JERRY SIEGEL
and JOE SHUSTER.
By special
arrangement with
the Jerry Siegel
family.

My editor asked me to
write an op-ed piece
about my choices.

A story about the
decision to share my
truth with all of you
in my own words.

There are already a great
many people spreading
information on the
subject from less
knowledgeable sources.

It was
expected.

Here is the
truth about
my truth.



It is a confusing time and even as I type this...I realize that I'm probably not going to finish this.

WHHOAAHH!

HOLD ON!
YOU'RE NOT CLEARED FOR TAKEOFF.

HEY, THANKS, CLARK KENT!

OH!
HEY!

AM--
AM I THE FIRST PERSON TO SAY THAT?



IN THIS CONTEXT?

YOU ARE.



IS IT OKAY IF WE STILL CALL YOU SUPERMAN?

I LIKE IT BETTER!

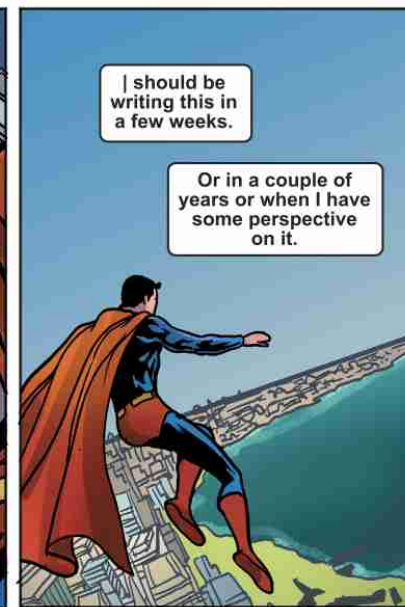
NO OFFENSE.

NONE TAKEN.

HAVE A SUPER DAY!

I shouldn't be writing this.

Certainly not today.



I should be writing this in a few weeks.

Or in a couple of years or when I have some perspective on it.



Right now, it's still happening.

I don't have perspective.

Yet.

Note to self-- tell Perry: thank you, but no thank you.

Not yet.

I need perspective.

What I NEED to do is hear from those I can ALWAYS count on to be honest with ME.

I called ALL the Justice Leagues together. The greatest living heroes of this generation. I need to hear from THEM.

We originally banded together to lift each other up--to help each other create what ended up being a new age of heroes. And I think it is fair to say I went and kicked over the milk bucket.

I'm TRYING not to listen to the lively debates going on behind my back; in the great Hall of Justice...but their affection for me is...tsk. Aw.

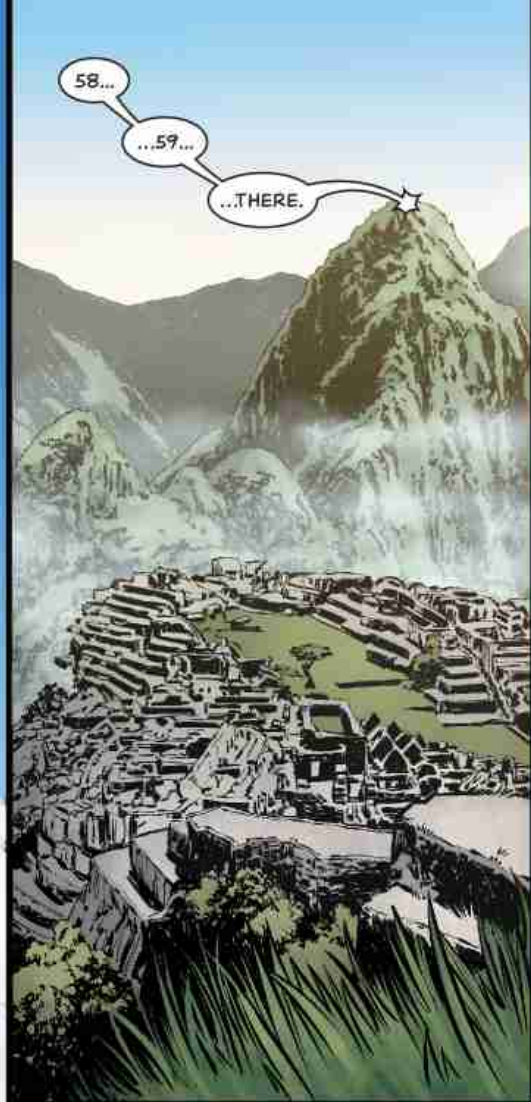
Okay. But temperatures are high.

Heart rates are elevated...

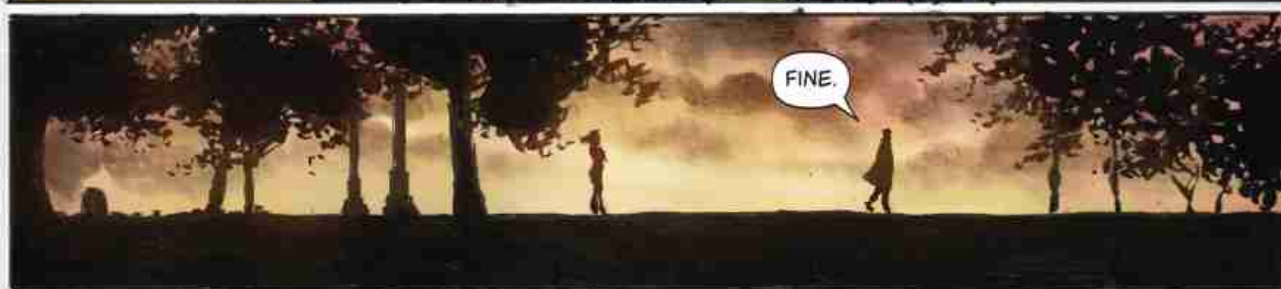


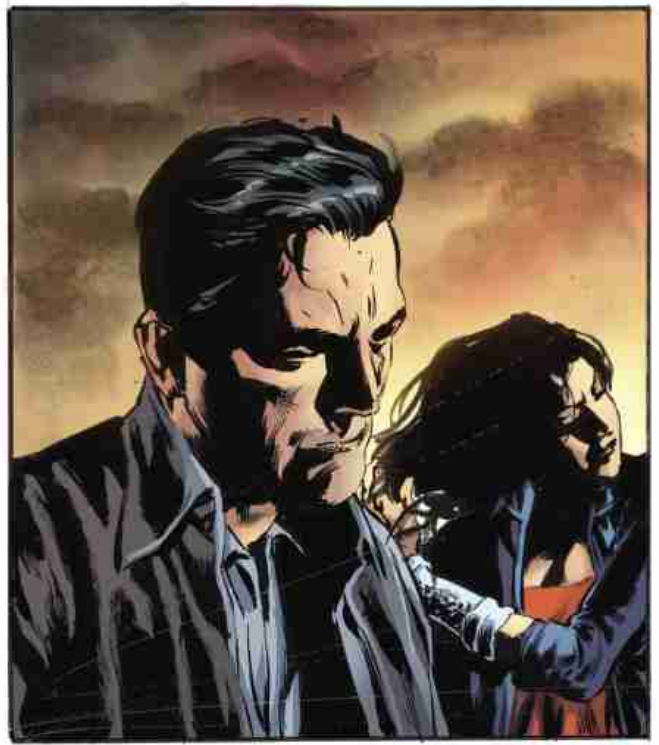
This will be good for me.



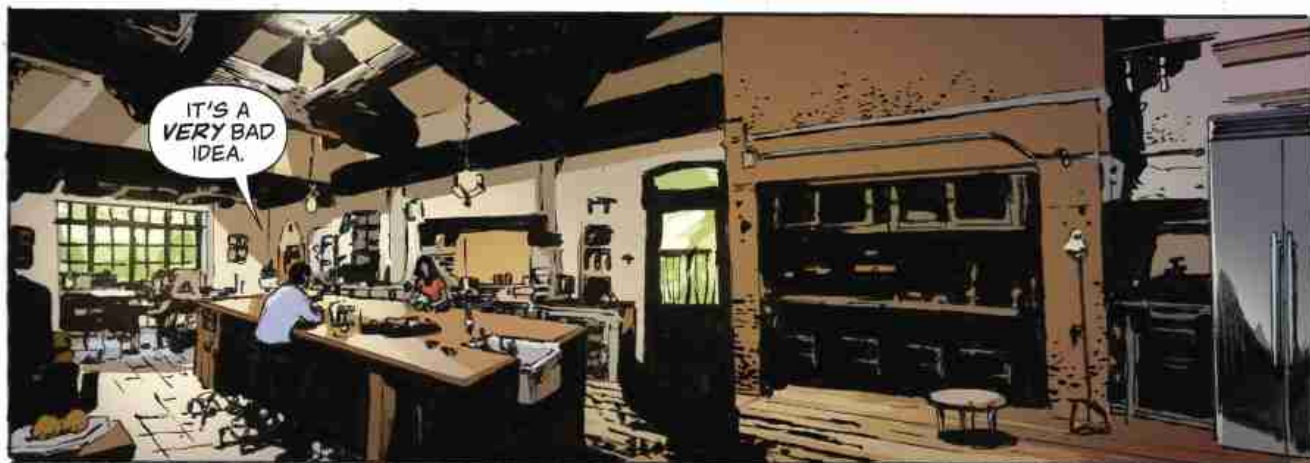
















I WOULD HAVE THOUGHT YOU'D BE **HAPPY** FOR HIM, FOR LOIS, AND JON.

WHY? BECAUSE HE "SPOKE HIS TRUTH"?



YES, ACTUALLY.



NO.



YOU KNOW WHAT THAT **REALLY** MEANS? WHEN SOMEONE SAYS THEY'RE "SPEAKING THEIR TRUTH"?

IT'S THE HIDING OF **SELFISHNESS** BEHIND A **VENEER** OF AGENCY...



...JUST ANOTHER WAY TO SAY WHAT I WANT IS **MORE IMPORTANT** THAN ANYTHING YOU MAY DESIRE OR NEED OR CARE ABOUT.

IT IS, FUNDAMENTALLY, AN **EXCUSE** TO **DISREGARD** OTHERS.



IT **CAN** BE, CERTAINLY...

...BUT
WHEN HAS
THAT EVER
BEEN KAL?

SINCE
WHEN COULD YOU
IMAGINE USING THE
WORDS "SELFISH"
AND "SUPERMAN"
IN THE SAME
SENTENCE?



THERE'S
ALWAYS A
FIRST TIME!
DON'T
YOU SEE?



OH...



...OH,
YES, I
THINK I
DO.

HE HAS
GONE AND DONE
THE ONE THING
YOU CAN NEVER
REPLICATE--

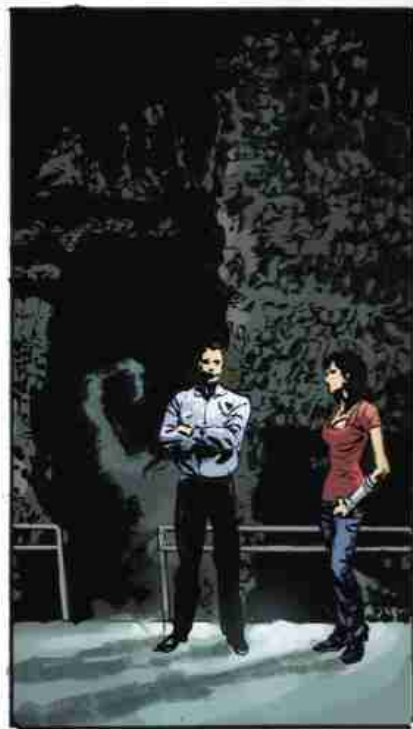
THAT'S
NOT--

--EVERYTHING
ELSE, YOU CAN
ANSWER. EVERYTHING
ELSE, YOU CAN MEET
AND MATCH.

SOME, YOU
CAN EVEN DO
BETTER. BUT
NOT THIS...



...NOT
THIS TIME.





I DON'T
WANT TO BE
JEALOUS
OF HIM.
OF
THEM.



AND MOST
OF THE TIME, I'M
NOT. ALMOST ALL
THE TIME I'M NOT,
DIANA, THAT'S
THE TRUTH.

BUT
SOMETIMES...
TIMES LIKE
THIS...



...I WONDER
WHAT IT WOULD
BE LIKE TO HAVE
WHAT HE HAS.

FAMILY.
HOME. TO LIVE WITH
NOTHING
TO HIDE.

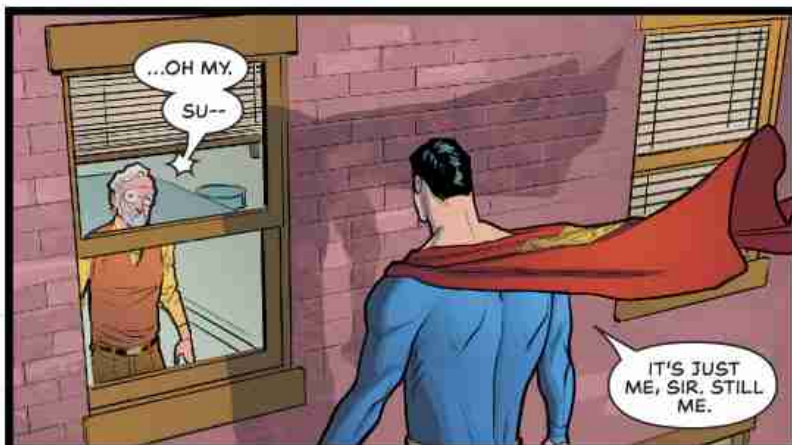
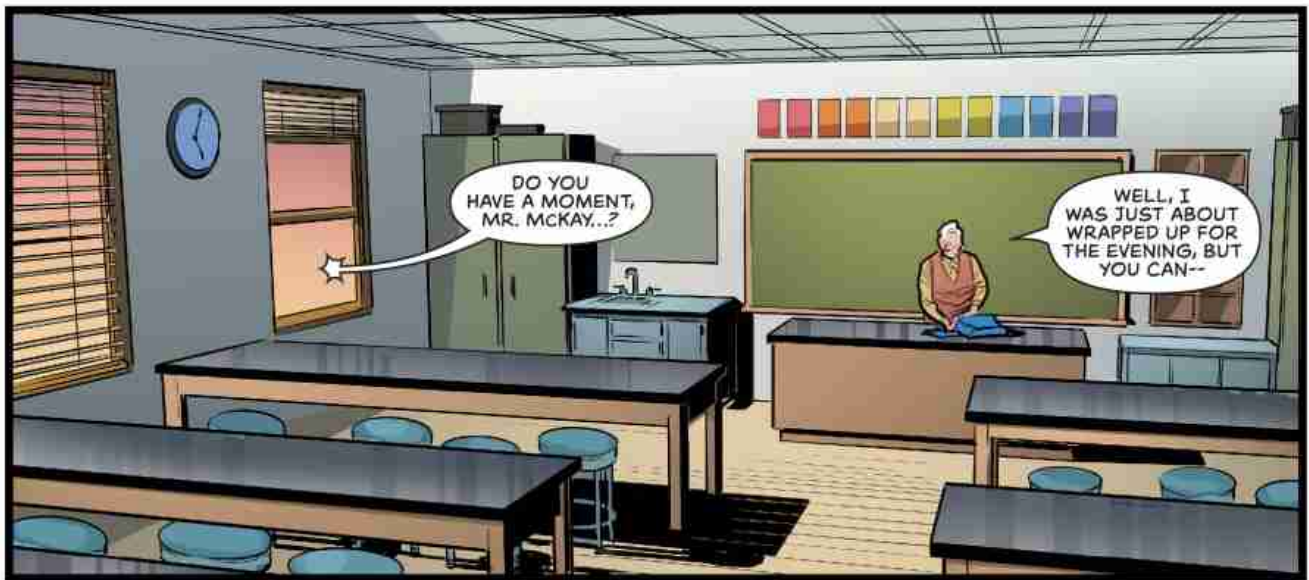


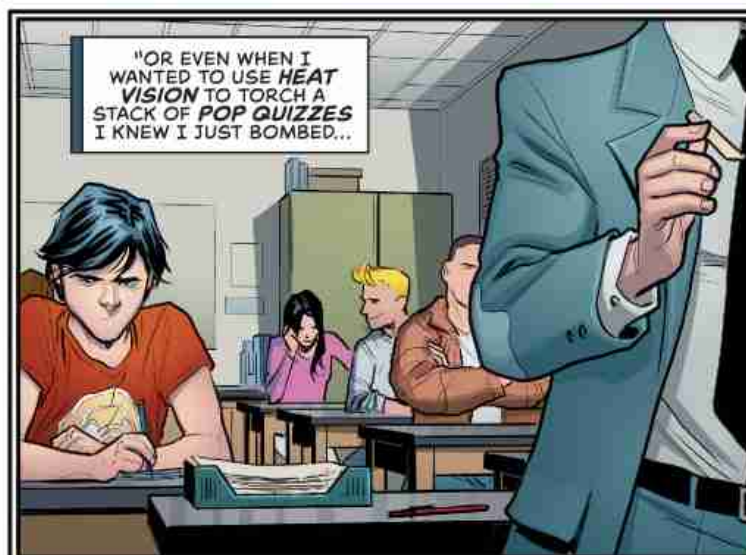
PERHAPS
ONE DAY.

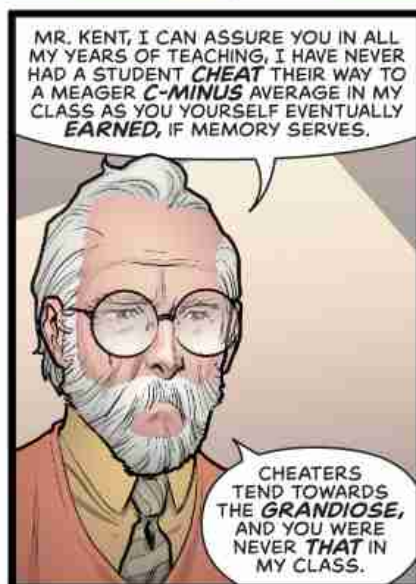
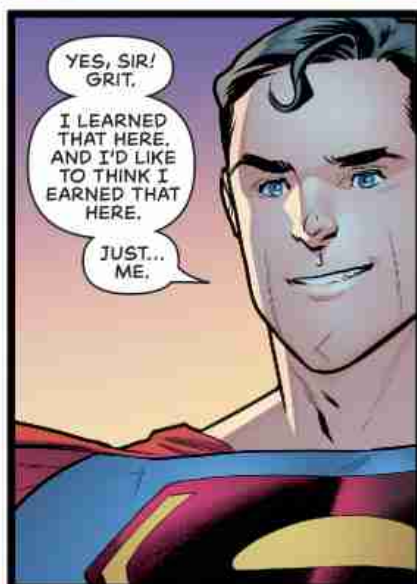
PERHAPS...



...BUT I
WON'T HOLD MY
BREATH.









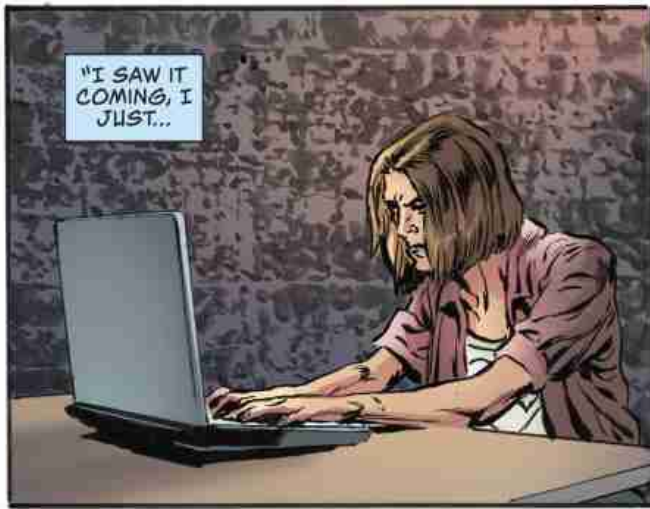


"WHEN DID THIS START?"

"AT ONCE, OF COURSE..."



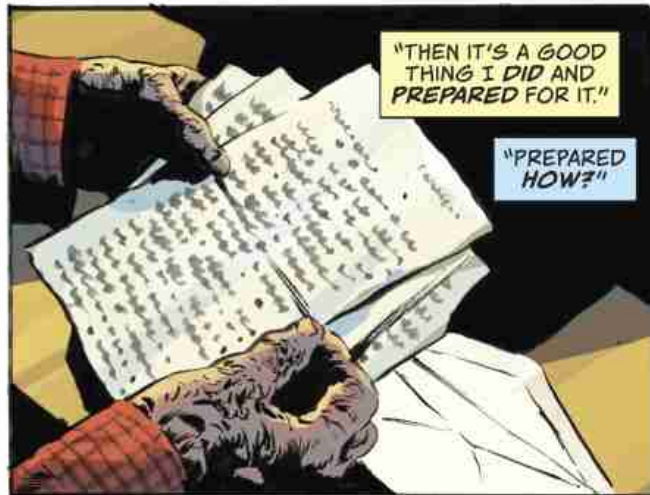
"...C'MON, SMALLVILLE, DON'T TELL ME YOU DIDN'T SEE THIS COMING?"



"I SAW IT COMING, I JUST..."



"...I JUST DIDN'T THINK IT WOULD BE LIKE THIS, THAT'S ALL."



"THEN IT'S A GOOD THING I DID AND PREPARED FOR IT."

"PREPARED HOW?"



"I HIRED A STAFF."

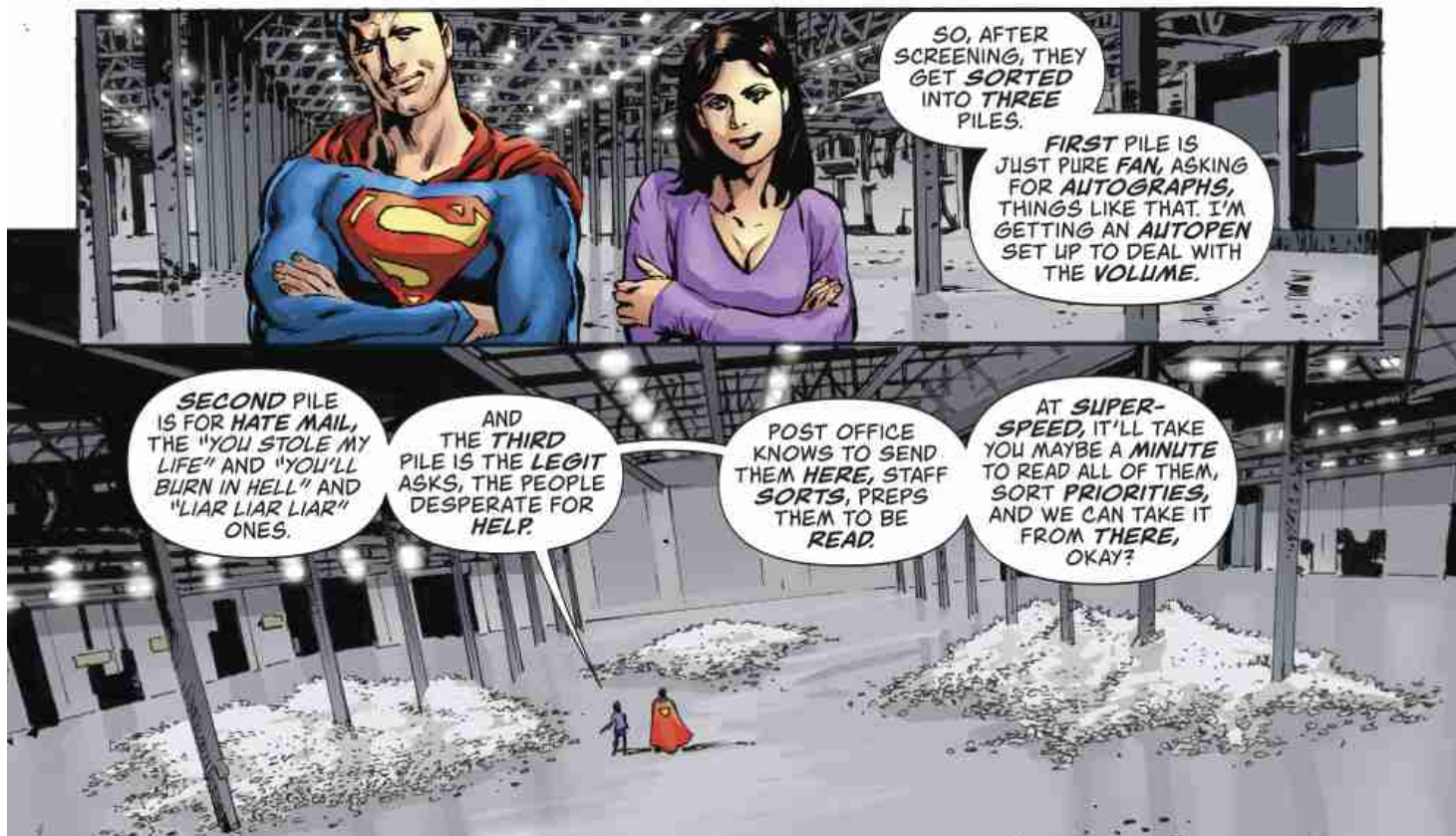
"LOIS..."



"RELAX, SWEETHEART..."



"...BRUCE RAN BACKGROUND CHECKS ON EVERY ONE OF THEM."



SO, AFTER SCREENING, THEY GET SORTED INTO THREE PILES.

FIRST PILE IS JUST PURE FAN, ASKING FOR AUTOGRAPHS, THINGS LIKE THAT. I'M GETTING AN AUTOPEN SET UP TO DEAL WITH THE VOLUME.

SECOND PILE IS FOR HATE MAIL, THE "YOU STOLE MY LIFE" AND "YOU'LL BURN IN HELL" AND "LIAR LIAR LIAR" ONES.

AND THE THIRD PILE IS THE LEGIT ASKS, THE PEOPLE DESPERATE FOR HELP.

POST OFFICE KNOWS TO SEND THEM HERE, STAFF SORTS, PREPS THEM TO BE READ.

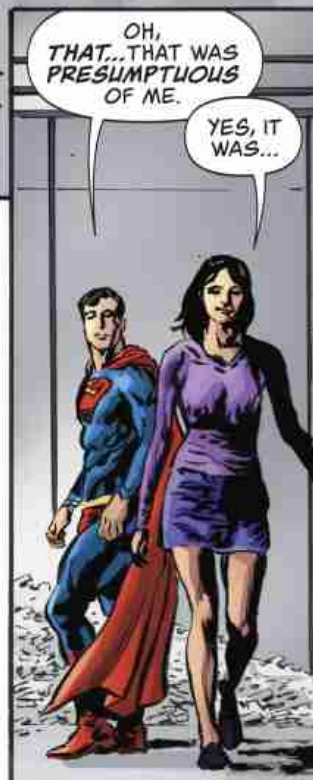
AT SUPER-SPEED, IT'LL TAKE YOU MAYBE A MINUTE TO READ ALL OF THEM, SORT PRIORITIES, AND WE CAN TAKE IT FROM THERE, OKAY?



ALL THESE LETTERS, ALL THESE PEOPLE...

...WRITING TO ME.

SWEETIE, LOOK CLOSER.



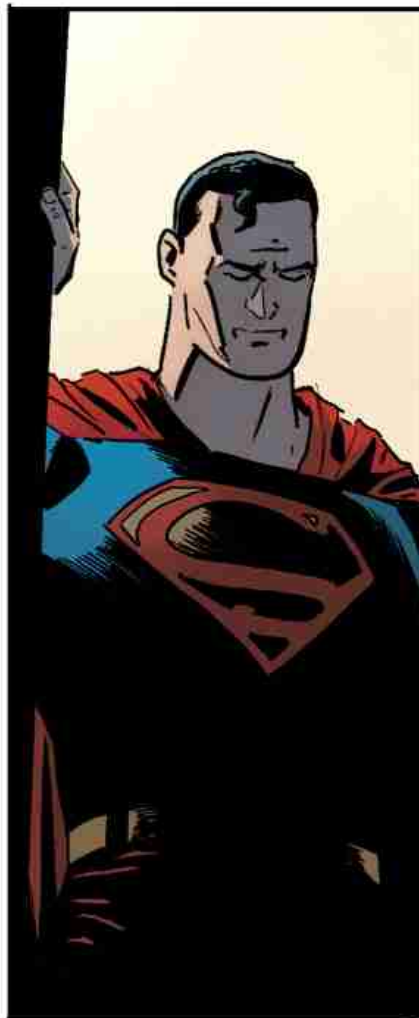
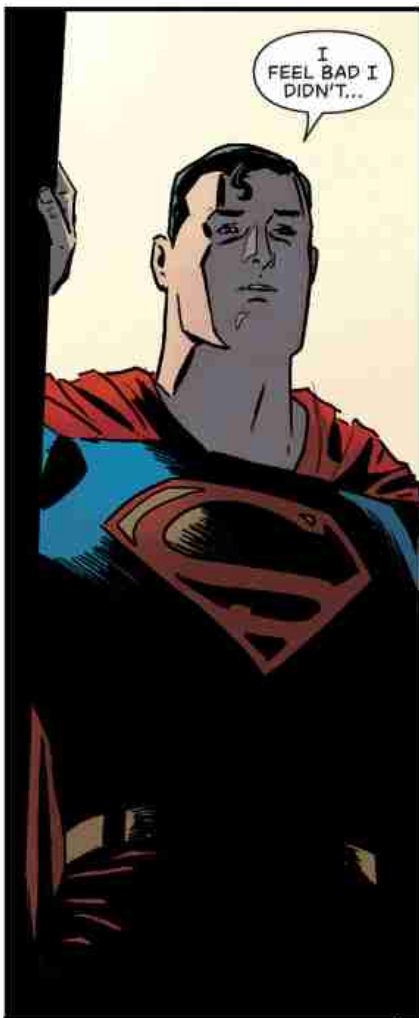
OH, THAT... THAT WAS PRESUMPTUOUS OF ME.

YES, IT WAS...

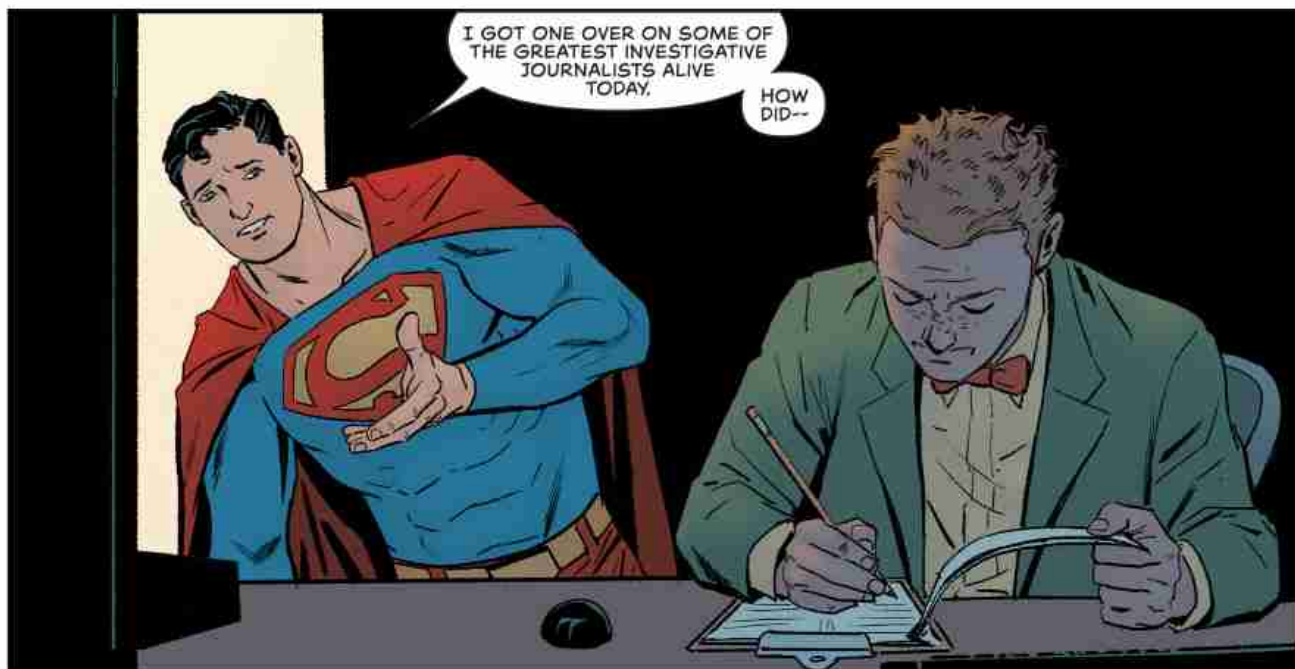


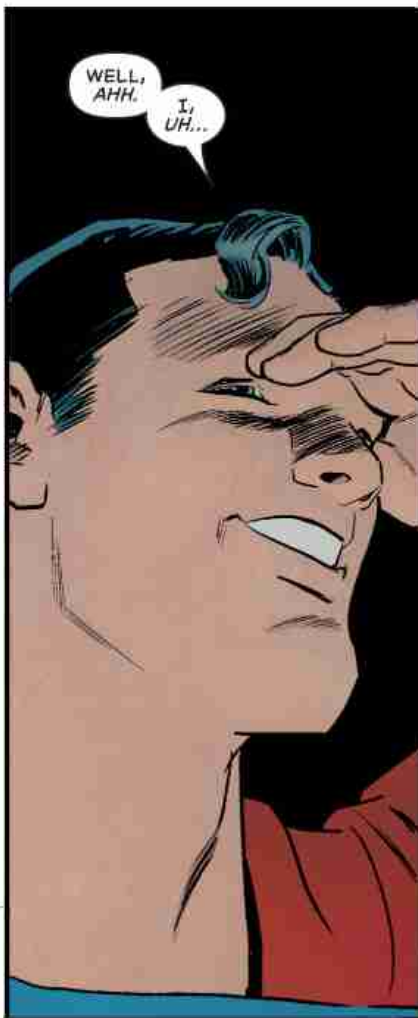
...YOURS ARE NEXT DOOR.





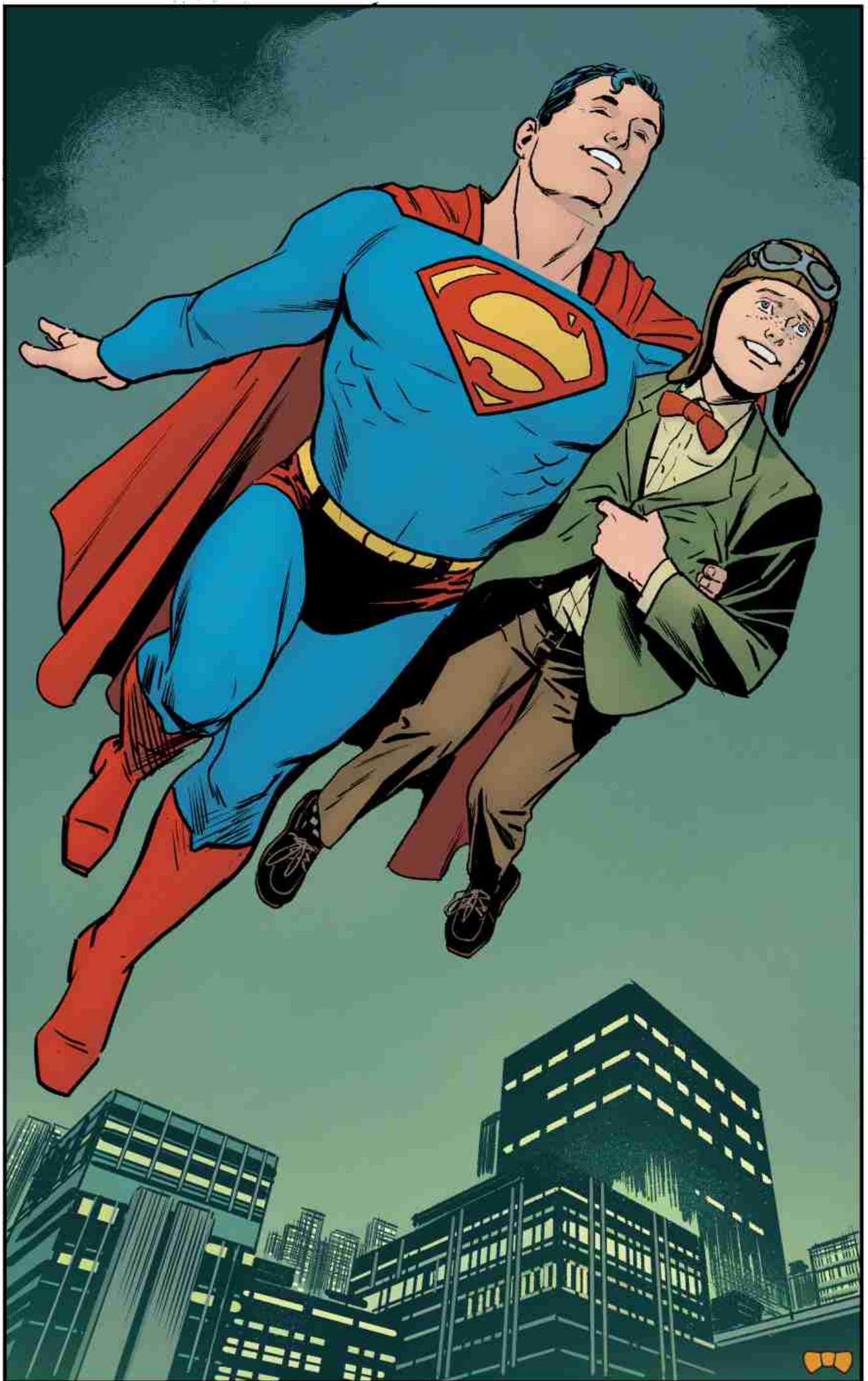












THE FORTRESS OF SOLITUDE

YOU'VE
DOUBLE
CHECKED
IT?

IT'S A
MONEY
TRAIL.

I JUST
NEED TO KNOW
YOU SEE THE
SAME THING
I SEE.

EPILOGUE.



LEX LUTHOR'S
PROOF THAT
MARISOL LEONE
IS THE LEADER OF
METROPOLIS'S
INVISIBLE
MAFIA.

THAT CERTAINLY
EXPLAINS WHY SHE
WAS SO RELUCTANT
TO BE INTERVIEWED
BY US.

I HAVE MY SECOND
INDEPENDENT SOURCE
AND I CALLED IN
A THIRD.

AS SOON AS
SHE CONFIRMS...
WE-- WE HAVE
TO DO SOME-
THING WITH
THIS!

SHE OWNS
THE DAILY
PLANET.

SHE APPEARS OUT
OF NOWHERE...AND
THESE HUGE WEIRD
CONTRIBUTIONS TO
S.T.A.R. LABS?

WITH ALL WE
KNOW ABOUT
THEM LATELY,
WHO EVEN
KNOWS IF SHE'S
FROM THIS
EARTH!

NOW
I REALLY DO
WANT TO
INTERVIEW
HER.

LUTHOR
GAVE THIS TO
US KNOWING
IF WE PUBLISH
IT...
...WE NOT
ONLY VANQUISH
HIS NEWEST
COMPETITOR
FOR HIM...

BUT
WE BURY
THE DAILY
PLANET.

WE HAVE
TO TELL THE
TRUTH.

THIS TRUTH
IS GOING TO
RUIN OUR
LIVES.
AND
THE LIVES
OF ALMOST
EVERYONE
WE LOVE.





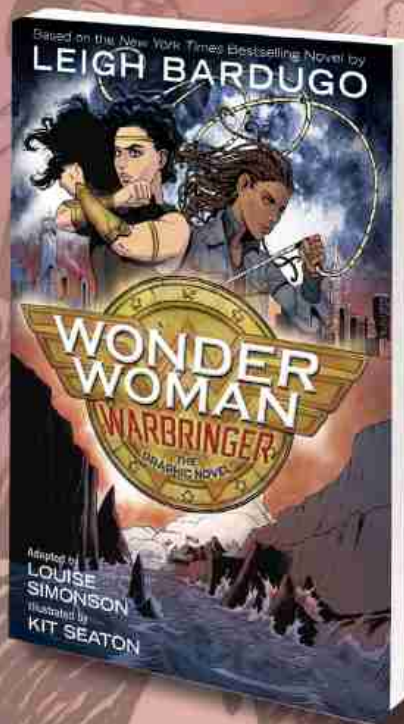
To be continued in
Superman: Villains!

Based on the *New York Times* bestselling novel by

LEIGH BARDUGO

WONDER WOMAN WARBRINGER

THE GRAPHIC NOVEL



Adapted by
**LOUISE
SIMONSON**

Illustrated by
**KIT
SEATON**

TO SAVE A LIFE, WILL DIANA
DOOM OUR WORLD?

ON SALE NOW!

A new graphic novel for young adults

TM & © DC





An interview with **Sarah Kuhn** and **Nicole Goux** on

Shadow of the Batgirl!

On sale now!

A teenage assassin may not seem like superhero material, but that's Cassandra Cain's journey in *Shadow of the Batgirl*, a new DC graphic novel for young adults written by Sarah Kuhn and illustrated by Nicole Goux.

What is it about Cassandra Cain that makes her special?

Sarah Kuhn:

Ever since her debut, I've loved Cassandra Cain. I was always drawn to the fact that she's built to be a villain, that's the path she's on, that seems like her undeniable fate—but she breaks away and decides to become a hero instead. There's something very moving to me about the idea that our choices can be that powerful.

And I love the fact that she's Asian American! I grew up on superheroes, but there weren't many that looked like me—seeing Cass as Batgirl still gives me a big thrill.

Nicole Goux: Over the course of the book, Cass discovers a deeper understanding of who she is.

She has endless potential as a character, and that's a great metaphor for the journey we all go on as teens—attempting to figure out what kind of adults we want to be.

Barbara Gordon plays a unique role—how did this take on Babs come to life?

Kuhn: They're both alone in a lot of ways at the beginning of the story and they both feel

like outcasts—the friendship that blossoms between them ends up being something they both really need.

I also wanted to bring out Barbara's nerdy librarian data-loving side—she gets so excited about information and gadgets and puzzles and I love that so much.

The visuals of *Shadow of the Batgirl* are lively and authentic. What inspired them?

Goux: I wanted Cass's world to be a fusion of traditional superhero aesthetics and something that would speak to a younger audience. I took inspiration from modern-day Brooklyn, some local spots in LA, current fashions, and...just my personal taste!

A redemption story for a teenage assassin is obviously emotionally heavy. How did you give that the weight it deserves?

Kuhn: I thought really hard about what would draw Cass out into the light—and the answer was almost always the people she's meeting who show her that real love she's never had before.



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